

If you could say it in words'

UNO Theatre Department  
hosts film for autism  
awareness.ENTERTAINMENT  
[PAGE 6]

## gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Golfers start season  
swingingGolf team takes Wayne State  
Invite, fourth at Lady Otter  
Spring Invitational.  
SPORTS  
[PAGE 4]

VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 49

TUESDAY | APRIL 14, 2009

Senate rushes  
to fill positions  
before breakMARK REAGAN  
STAFF WRITER

With the spring semester ending in a few weeks, the Student Senate rushed to fill vacant positions in Student Government with a flurry of appointments Thursday.

Vice President Kevin Huddleston, Chief Administrative Officer Matt Nelson and Legislative and Public Relations Officer Megan Schmitz appointed a total of 16 positions within Student Government, its agencies and university-wide committees.

Huddleston nominated four students to Traffic Appeals Commission: Paul Lubbers, Alexis Bowder, Kelley Barnett and Anne L. Duda. He also appointed Schmitz to the Committee on Honors and Awards and the University Affairs Committee.

Luke Hoffman, speaker of the Student Senate, was also nominated by Huddleston for the Parking Advisory Committee.

Sens. Maya Doghman, Eric Hansen and Gina Halbom joined Roger Garcia, director of the American Multicultural Students agency, as members of the Judicial Committee. They were nominated by Huddleston as well.

Maida Avdic was reappointed director of the Network for disabled Students agency, after Nelson nominated her. Schmitz nominated Tara DeVorss, Travis Lehr, Craig Pytleski and Michael Sustaita to the Election Commission.

After confirming all of the appointments, the senate began considering legislation starting with a resolution calling for a new Code Blue phone to be placed near the southwest corner of the Weber Fine Arts Building.

The resolution, which was approved, authorized Student Government to use \$2,800 to partly fund the phone.

"We've been looking at a location by the fine arts building for a couple of years," said Paul Kosel, assistant manager of Campus Security. "There is really nothing in that area."

The Code Blue phones cost between \$6,000 and \$7,000 to construct and another \$3,000 to \$4,000 to install, Kosel said. The location was selected after receiving feedback from students concerned with security in that area of campus.

Turning to internal affairs, the senate approved its fall meeting schedule and added a clause to the Student Activities Budget Commission internal

SEE SENATE: PAGE 2

New faces  
shine for  
Mavs in  
spring  
gameMICHELLE BISHOP  
SPORTS & PHOTO EDITOR

With 21 seniors gone from last year's 7-4 team that finished third in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association and advanced to the NCAA Division II playoffs for the fourth consecutive year, head coach Pat Behrns had his work cut out for him this spring.

All that work culminated with the annual spring football game at Caniglia Field Saturday afternoon.

More than 500 fans gathered to watch the white team earn a 19-6 victory over the red team. But there weren't two split red and white teams—the offensive players wore red, while the defense wore white. The top offense and defense faced off while the second teams faced their counterparts.

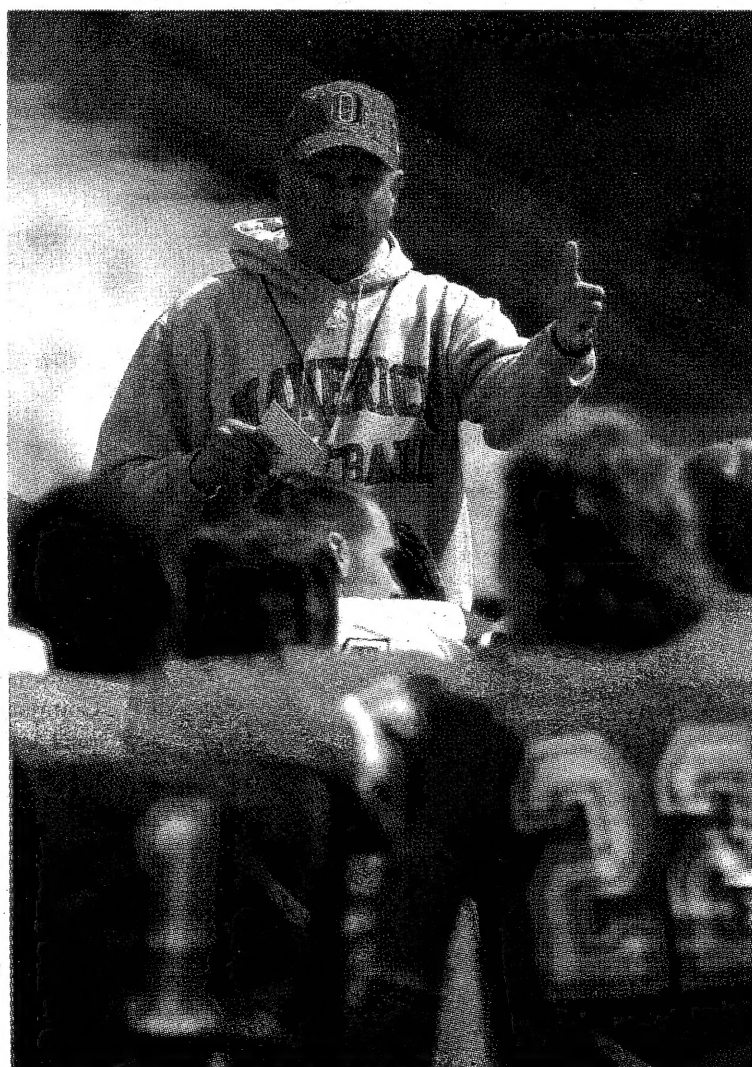
The most pressing concern for UNO this spring might be the quarterback situation. The Mavs are looking for a signal caller to step up and replace three-year starter Zach Miller.

Miller finished his four-year career as the all-time leading scorer in UNO history with 306 points and 50 touchdowns. He ranks second all-time with 7,218 total yards.

Junior college transfer Jon Daniels quarterbacked the No. 1 offense, but they struggled to gain yardage in the first half. They collected just 64 total yards and three first downs against a solid No. 1 defense.

Junior Greg Wunderlich, the only returning quarterback with D-II game experience, sat out the spring game due to a shoulder injury.

Redshirt freshmen John Teigland and Guy Martino also stepped in to direct the offense.



Head coach Pat Behrns talks to his team after Saturday's spring football game at Caniglia Field. The Mavs are prepping for their second season of MIAA play after finishing last season 7-4 overall and 6-3 in the MIAA. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Teigland and sophomore Aaron Konicek connected to score the only points of the first half. Konicek grabbed a pass and raced down the left sideline for a 70-yard touchdown in the second quarter. Teigland and Konicek also connected for a 30-yard touchdown in the third.

"We got a lot of work to do," Behrns said. "There were some awful good things out there today. That late drive by the No. 1 offense was a pretty decent drive. But we looked a little confused out there at times, we got a lot of new faces."

In the fourth quarter, Daniels ran 8 yards for a touchdown and capped the scoring with a 7-yard touchdown pass to redshirt freshman Augustine Osuala on the game's final play. The play was set up by a 40-yard fumble return by sophomore linebacker Ben Vanderslice.

"I cannot say that I was disappointed with our

SEE FOOTBALL: PAGE 8

Financial aid  
may change  
with budgetRYAN WILCH  
CONTRIBUTOR

The way UNO students receive their student loans could be directly affected if President Obama's budget is passed this spring or summer.

Currently, UNO uses private lenders to finance its loans. If Obama has his way, however, the entire process would be altered.

"As I read it, in the 300 page budget there is one paragraph that talks about discontinuing originating loans through FFELP — the Federal Family Education Loan Program — which would mean that all funds would come from direct lending," said Randy Sell, director of financial aid at UNO.

Schools currently have two choices in deciding on how to provide loans to their students: the direct loan program, where the government uses its own capital to finance student loans, and FFELP, where the government guarantees repayment of loans and subsidies to private lenders.

The 2010 budget estimates that eliminating subsidies issued through the FFELP could save \$4 billion annually.

"I'm certainly interested in seeing where this going to go," Sell said. "Obviously, this can have some real impact to our students. I don't think students necessarily are too concerned about where their money comes from. They just want to make sure that the money is there and available when it's supposed to be."

Not all the campuses of the University of Nebraska system would be impacted by the

SEE AID: PAGE 3

## Black Studies hosts annual Malcolm X festival this week



TERENCE OLIVER/AKRON  
BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

The UNO Department of Black Studies will sponsor its annual Malcolm X Festival and Conference Tuesday through Thursday in the Milo Bail Student Center.

The theme of this year's event is "Resisting the Europeanization of Consciousness."

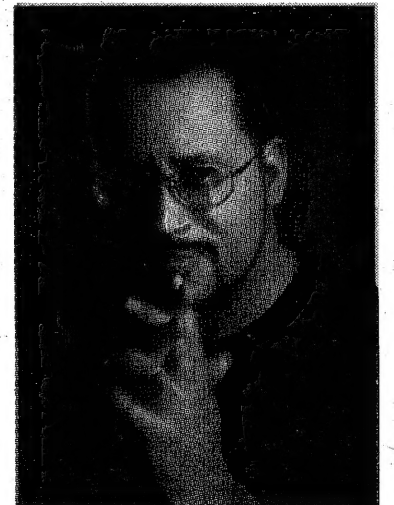
The conference will include a keynote presentation by Michael Eric Dyson, writer of "April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Death and How It Changed America" and more than a dozen other books.

Dyson will give his keynote at 6 p.m. in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service Building Collaborative Commons. The talk is free and open to the public.

The conference also was scheduled to feature "Designing Women" co-star Meshach Taylor and "Amen" actress Anna Maria Horsford at a pre-event banquet on Monday.

The Department of Black Studies will also conduct the premier of its hour-long documentary "An Inaugural Ride to Freedom: The Legacy of a People, a Movement, and a Mission" at the Great Escape Movie Theatre, 7440 Crown Point Ave., on Tuesday at 6 p.m. Tickets to the screening are \$7.

- Scott Stewart



MICHAEL ERIC DYSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
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# UNL journalism students required to buy laptops

## College looks to reducing computer lab expenses by having students purchase software

JENNA GIBSON  
DAILY NEBRASKAN

LINCOLN, Neb. (UWIRE) — At a recent journalism meeting, UNL faculty were brainstorming ways to make cuts when someone brought up the idea of requiring students to buy their own laptops and software packages for the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

The need for cuts followed Chancellor Harvey Perlman's recent request that colleges and departments make sacrifices to help save money.

At the meeting, a committee was formed to investigate the issue, said Charlyne Berens, a news-editorial professor.

From there, the committee met with representatives from Apple and Dell and weighed the pros and cons of recommending or

requiring laptops for incoming students.

The college would save money by not having to pay for software licenses, Internet connections or repair costs it currently pays for the computers in Andersen Hall.

The savings would amount to about \$16,000 per year, said Luther Hinrichs, computing and technology manager for the college. The college will start phasing out computers as they get older, Hinrichs said, until 110 of Andersen Hall's approximately 300 computers are gone.

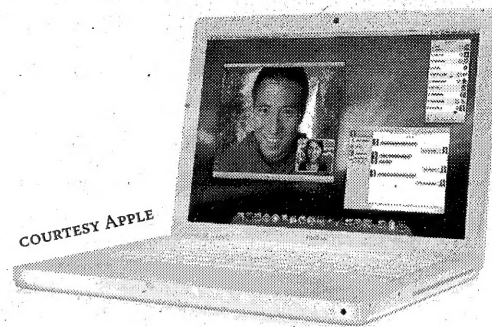
If students were required to get a specific type of machine, Berens said, every student would have the equipment they need for class, and there would be fewer compatibility problems.

Also, if a laptop purchase is required, students could include the expense in their financial aid or scholarship package.

The committee decided to require students to purchase one of four laptops: a high-end Mac, a low-end Mac, a high-end Dell or a low-end Dell, Berens said. The high-end machines run about \$1,800, and the low-end computers are about \$1,000.

Students could go to the UNL Computer Store and pick up a package with everything they need at a discounted price, said Bruce Thorson, a news-editorial associate professor who is also on the committee.

At first, freshmen would probably only be required to have



COURTESY APPLE

basic software such as Microsoft Office, Berens said, and they would have to buy more software as they got into more complicated design or editing classes.

"That would allow people to add [software] as classes require it," Berens said. "Also, that way as software is upgraded ... you get a program when you need it, and you can get the most up-to-date version."

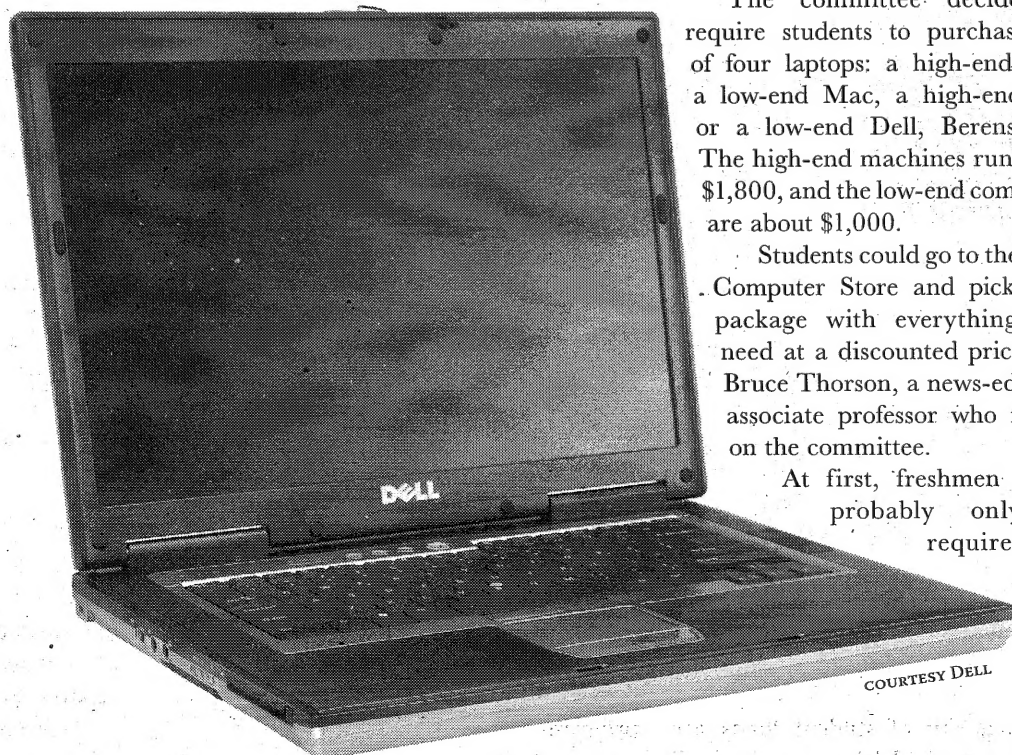
The journalism sequence officially approved the proposal at a meeting Friday, Berens said. The advertising sequence has yet to formally vote on it, but there seems to be no opposition, according to Amy Struthers, an assistant professor of advertising.

The proposal will not dramatically change the way journalism classes are taught, Berens said.

"I don't think the technology will drive the curriculum, maybe the other way around," Berens said. "I hope we never reach the day when the technology drives the curriculum."

If the proposal is accepted, incoming freshmen will be required to buy one of the offered packages starting this fall. Current students will not be affected.

"I would imagine from the student's perspective, they would go, 'Oh, it's going to cost us more money,'" Thorson said. "But they would have the latest, greatest, up-to-date computer and software package ... it sounds like a good deal to me."



COURTESY DELL

## LOOKING TO MAKE YOUR MARK?

The Gateway is currently accepting applications for Editor in Chief for Summer & Fall 2009.

Interview times to be announced.

Grab an application at the Gateway office (first floor, MBSC)

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Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

FROM SENATE: PAGE 1

operating procedures requiring a training session to be held and adding a policy formation section.

A letter of statement written by Sen. Elizabeth O'Connor was then approved, commending UNO for its creation of a Sustainability Task Force. The letter suggested the university consider replacing combustion engines and adopt environmentally friendly buildings, purchasing and food service standards.

The letter also urged the administration to "conduct energy audits and water audits of all major university buildings and to conduct a campus carbon audit to determine current campus efficiency."

The final piece of legislation considered was a resolution by Sen. Thomas Kocanda calling for "freedom of conscience" to be protected on campus.

"Freedom of conscience means how one's personal ideals should not affect studies," Kocanda said. "If it's not subject matter related to the class, if it's the student's ideals, it cannot be downgraded if it opposed the faculty's views."

The senate debated the resolution, with Sen. Jeffrey Johnson asking Kocanda to cite an example of something happening on campus that violated this idea, which Kocanda could not.

Executive Treasurer Shari Tangeman and Sen. Kyle Schulze, however, both said they felt professors took their opinions into consideration during grading. Ultimately, the resolution passed with the senate's support.

The Student Senate's final meeting for the spring semester will be held on April 23 at 7 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room.

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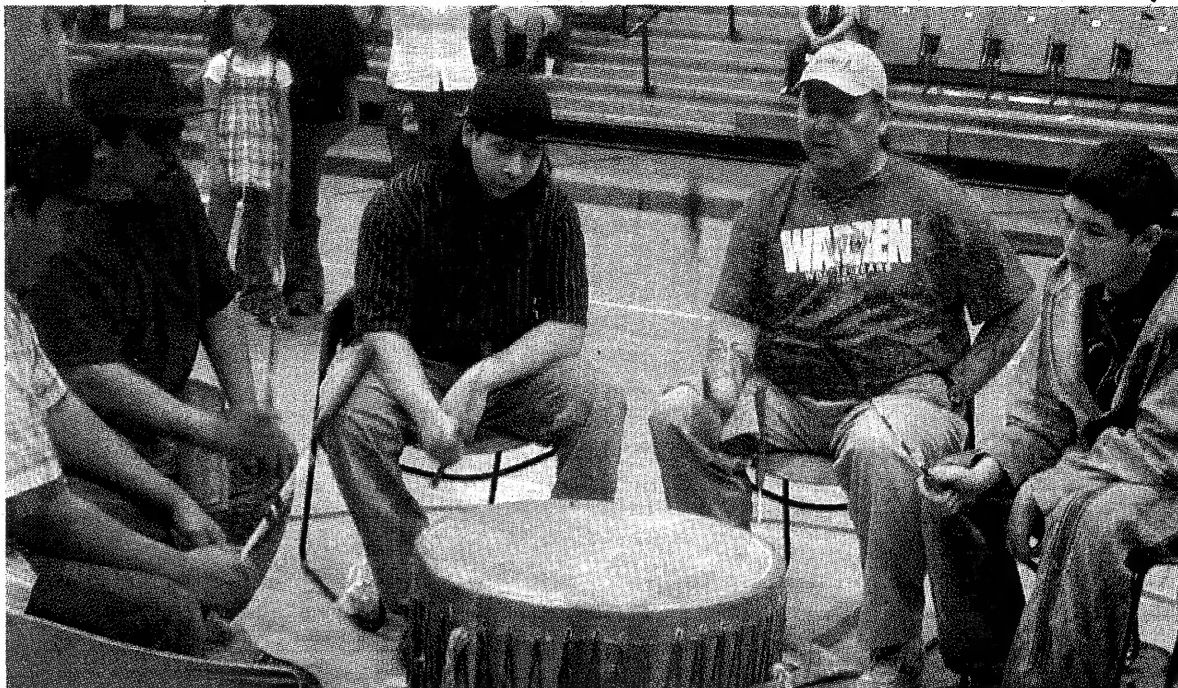
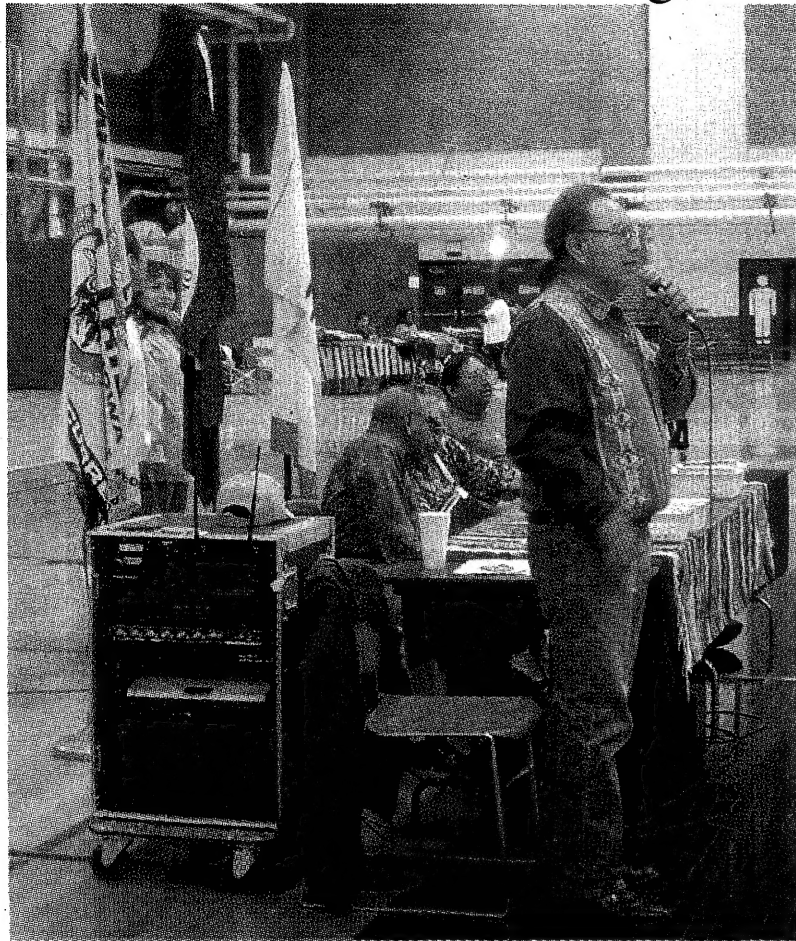
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# Native American heritage celebrated with annual cultural event Saturday



Multicultural Affairs' Native American Outreach hosted a cultural event in lieu of its annual pow wow at the Sapp Fieldhouse on Saturday. The event featured Native American singers, ceremonial dancing and a hand game, which is a guessing game played at traditional gatherings.

At left, Frank Bear Killer of the Oglala Lakota tribe, the emcee for the event, keeps the activities going.

Above, from left to right, Zach, Sage Stabler, Will Simons, Shannon Leory and Josh Leroy sit in a drum circle and sing at the Sapp Fieldhouse on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA DALY/THE GATEWAY

FROM AID: PAGE 1

proposed changes, though.

UNL's campus has been with the direct loan program since 1995. The school's financial aid department decided to switch to direct lending because it was simpler.

"With national university like the Lincoln campus, where our students came from all 50 states, we were doing business with 57 different guaranteed agencies and 650 different banks," said Craig Munier, director of financial aid at UNL. "We were forced to accommodate every possible lending process, some of which we weren't familiar with at all."

In addition to being more convenient for administration, being part of the direct loan process could have benefits for

students.

"As far as student simplicity, you know the money comes from the direct loans servicer and, when you're in repayment, you're working with the direct loans servicer and your loans are not sold somewhere in between like it can sometimes happen with private loans," said Deana Unger, associate director of client services in the UNL Office of Financial Aid.

Sell and Munier differ in their views of how smooth the transition would be going from FFELP to the direct loan program.

"The majority of student loans are coming from the FFELP," Sell said. "If all the schools and all the volume had to move into this program at the same time, in the same year, I have concerns about are they

ready. Can they manage it?"

Munier said he believes switching to a direct loan only program shouldn't be all that difficult.

"We only have single source of funds for the federal Pell grant program," Munier said. "We only have a single source of funds for the Social Security program. I've never heard of a senior citizen [saying] that I didn't get a Social Security check. I've never heard a student complain that their Pell grant wasn't here on time. The direct loan program works exactly administratively as the Pell grant program."

Still continuing both systems might

be beneficial for the student loan industry, which in turn might mean lower rates for students.

"Having two loan programs for schools to choose from has been good for the student loan industry," Sell said. "It's like a competitive thing. If you're not servicing your students in the private loan sector, we as schools can go to direct lending or vice versa."

Even if the new budget is passed with the new student loan policy intact, Sell believes that his administration is prepared to handle the change.

"We can retool here relatively quickly," Sell said.



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# Winning start to a short season for UNO golf team

MARCUS HANSEN  
CONTRIBUTOR

The UNO women's golf team started out its spring season winning the Wayne State Invite on March 22 and 23. Junior Abbey Weddle started the tournament off strong and led all the competitors with a plus 7-79 after the first day.

The Mavs were in first place after the first day, followed by Wayne State in second and Nebraska-Kearney in third.

Coach Tim Nelson's women won the

event with a team score of 650. Nebraska-Kearney finished second at 700, followed by host Wayne State at 704.

"It was very windy and I was very impressed with the way the girls handled the weather," Nelson said.

The Mavs followed the win by heading to the Lady Otter Spring Invitational in Seaside, Calif., March 30-31.

The Mavs had a slow first day in California, primarily because the team had never played there before.

"The greens were a lot bigger and a

lot faster than Wayne State," Nelson said. "It took a day to adjust, but we were happy with our outcome."

Junior Erin Ommen led the Mavs to a comeback the second day with a final round score of plus 4-76.

"The competition in California included some good West Region teams, including Monterey Bay, Sonoma, and Chico ... who will all be competing against us to get to Regionals, which will be coming up in Omaha in May," Ommen said.

On the second day of the tournament,

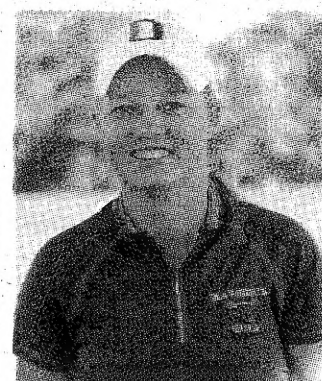
UNO shot the low round of the day. However, the Mavs finished with a final score of 663, good enough for fourth place in the 13-school competition. The Mavericks were only one stroke behind third place Sonoma State University.

"We dropped in both ranking systems, we are now ranked in eighth and 10th," Nelson said. "But it's not because we got fourth in California, it's because we haven't played in as many tournaments as the other schools."

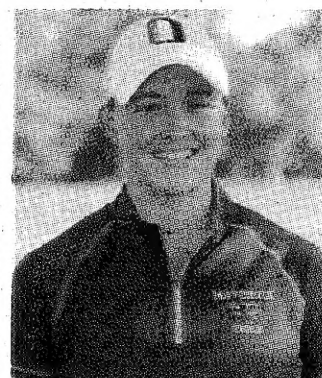
On Sunday, UNO traveled to the Tarleton State Women's Golf Invitational in Granbury, Texas. Results were unavailable as of press time.

"This tournament will include many of the West Region teams we haven't played against before," Ommen said. "Since we will be seeing many of them again in regional play, it is important that we play against as many West Regional teams as possible."

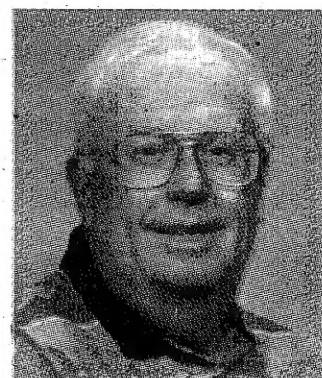
The team has found itself facing several courses they haven't played before, including Sunday's invitational in Texas and the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Conference Championship in Kansas City, Mo., starting April 19.



ABBEY WEDDLE



ERIN OMMEN



TIM NELSON

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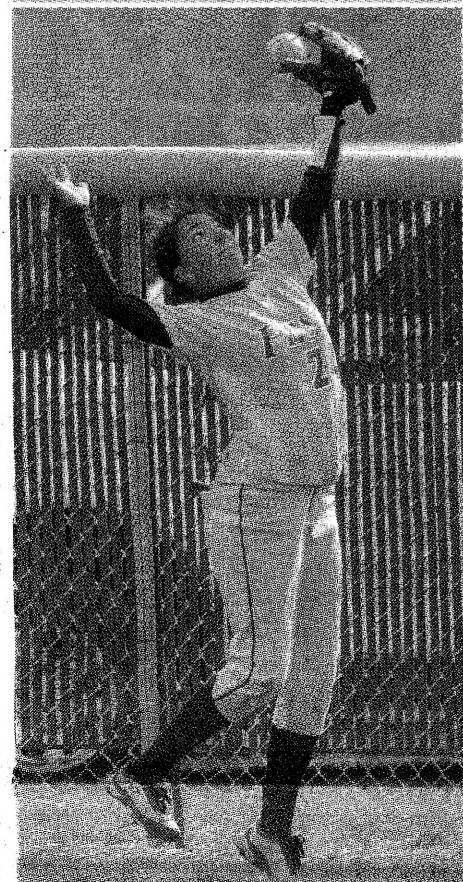
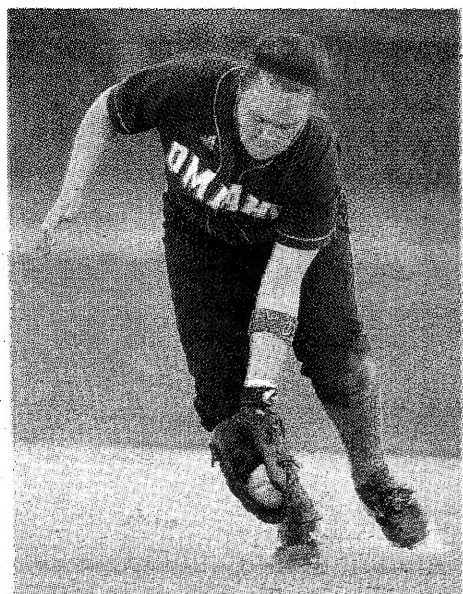


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# Mavs sweep Tigers with a pair of walk-off at-bats



**MICHELLE BISHOP**  
SPORTS & PHOTO EDITOR

The No. 22-ranked Mavericks used clutch hitting to sweep a pair of games from Fort Hays State (24-25, 4-8 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association) Saturday at Claussen-Westgate Field.

UNO (32-7, 6-2 MIAA) trailed game one 2-0, but scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh for the win. In the second game, the Mavs slugged consecutive doubles in the ninth inning to win 5-4, their second walk-off game of the day.

Fort Hays appeared to have the first game secure, leading 2-0 heading into the bottom of the seventh. But UNO loaded the bases with its first three batters of the inning to fuel the rally.

Junior Kristi Meneely, pinch-hitting, led off the seventh by getting hit by a pitch. Next, freshman Katelyn Hinton walked. She and sophomore Ashley Lynch, pinch-running for Meneely, advanced a base on junior Treightin Yates' sacrifice bunt. Fort Hays failed to record an out as the throw went to third and was late and off the mark.

Freshman Molly Feichtinger followed with a two-run double to right field that scored two and advanced Yates to third. Junior Jenna Dell laid down a bunt and Yates beat the throw home on the suicide squeeze to give the Mavs a 3-2 win.

Junior Melissa Negrete struck out seven and improved her record to 13-3 with the win.

In game two, the teams were knotted 1-1 entering the bottom of the sixth. UNO scored a run off junior Julia Krejci's RBI double and added two more off a home run by Meneely, her first of the season.

"It felt good," Meneely said. "She threw me an outside pitch, I'm not much of an outside pitch hitter. Then she threw me inside and that's when I hit it."

The Mavs led 4-1 entering the seventh inning, but the Tigers responded with a rally of their own to force extra innings. Fort Hays scored three runs off a pair of doubles to tie the game.

UNO broke the tie in the bottom of the ninth with a pair of back-to-back doubles. Yates drilled a one-out double to the fence in the bottom of the ninth, Fort Hays center fielder Sara Tani got leather on the ball but couldn't hold onto it. Feichtinger followed with a blast that nearly cleared the center field wall, allowing Yates to score her second winning run of the day.

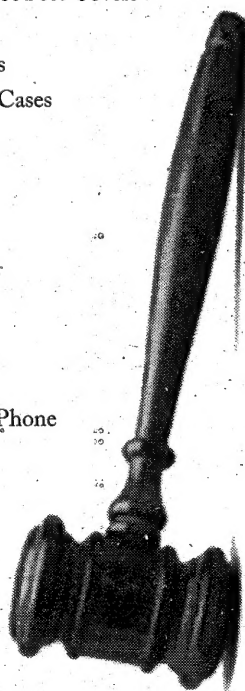
Sophomore Lindsey Slocum collected 10 strikeouts and improved to 10-0 with the win.

Feichtinger finished with four hits and three RBIs in the doubleheader, while senior Amanda Bader collected three hits and scored twice.

UNO hits the road today for a 2 p.m. doubleheader at Wayne State.

**PUBLIC SALE:** There will be a public auction of University surplus property at the warehouse at 3805 N. 16<sup>th</sup> St. on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Standley Auction & Realty Co. will handle the sale. Items may be viewed starting at 8 a.m. on the date of the sale with the auction to start at 10 a.m.

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## UNO hosts movie for National Autism Awareness Month

MARK REAGAN  
CONTRIBUTOR

A tale about struggle, love and fitting into society comes to UNO this week.

The UNO Theatre Department, along with the Kinetic Brew, Olde Towne Development Committee and Bellevue FOE Club, presents "If You Could Say It In Words," April 16 through April 18. The independent film was written and directed by Nicholas Gray about Asperger's Syndrome, a type of autism that affects social functioning skills.

Nelson, a poor, black artist living on the fringe of society, meets Sadie, a middle-class girl with big dreams. They fall in love while Nelson's Asperger's Syndrome goes undiagnosed.

Asperger's Syndrome, also known as AS, impacts how individuals communicate. It makes it hard for those with AS to have two-sided social interactions.

In 1993, Communication Disorder Specialists Stephen Ehlers and Christopher Gillberg conducted a study in Gothenburg, Sweden, about children in mainstream schools who have AS.

They tested 10,000 children who had an IQ of 70 or higher, and found that 36 of them had AS while 35 others had other social impairments, according to the National Autistic Society Web site.

Gray said his inspiration for this film was his high school teacher who had two autistic children. He explained that the teacher worked very hard to ensure his children were diagnosed correctly and given proper attention. Seeing this man, who he had looked up to for years,

go through this process with a "Herculean effort" made Gray want his main character to have his AS go undiagnosed.

"Nelson, at the beginning of the movie, is doing his best to blend in," Gray said. "He puts a lot of effort into seeming as normal as possible."

The film uses sound and audio editing to demonstrate what it's like to live in Nelson's world.

"We did a lot of that in the editing and the sound mix to create the world as that character sees it," Gray said.

On the other hand, Sadie lives in a world where expectations are forced upon her.

"I found a parallel [between] Nelson trying to normal as possible and Sadie trying to be the success that everyone wants her to be," Gray said.

These two dynamics play out in the midst of new love, which Gray explained is a place where Nelson and Sadie do not have much control.

"If You Could Say It In Words" has received lots of attention in the independent movie circuit. It premiered at the Derby City Film Festival in October 2008 and won Best Feature and Best of Fest by audience vote.

Last month, the movie premiered



Alvin Smith and Marin Ireland star in "If You Could Say It In Words." The movie will play at UNO on April 16 as part of April's National Autism Awareness Month. (COURTESY OF IFYOUCOULD-MOVIE.COM)

at The Method Fest 2009 in Calabasas, Calif., and was one of the official selections at the festival.

The film was produced by A Chip & A Chair Films, LLC, it's first feature, and stars Alvin Keith as Nelson and Marin Ireland as Sadie. Actors Gerry Lehan, Yvonne Woods and Dana Snyder, known as the voice of Master Shake from Cartoon Network's "Aqua Teen Hunger Force," round out the rest of the cast.

The movie is presented in recognition of National Autism Awareness Month.

The screening at UNO will begin at 7 p.m., followed by panel discussions with the director and lead actor.

"If You Could Say It In Words" will kick off on April 16 at UNO's CPACS building in room 101. It's free and open to the public.

For more information about the movie or for show times, visit IfYouCould-Movie.com or iynebraska.com.

Entertainment Editor Andrea Barbe contributed to this report.

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### IN THEATRES APRIL 24

STUDENTS ONLY



## What happens when journalists get to close: The tale of a Canadian jihadist

I have a morbid fascination with hostage situations, especially when a journalist is involved. Don't get me wrong, I would never wish that anyone become kidnapped by a terrorist group or insurgency, but it's a real threat to those whose jobs are situated in the middle of conflict.

Unfortunately, some of us have had the experience of witnessing what happens when a kidnapper's demands aren't met and the hostage is beheaded publicly or otherwise executed. It's quite intense to say the least, especially when it could've been prevented, regardless of political agendas.

When a kidnapping occurs, I find myself frantically flipping through newspapers and Web sites, hoping for a resolution before time runs out. But the latest kidnapping of Canadian journalist Beverly Giesbrecht had quite a different effect on me.

At first, I was a little shaken up. Who wouldn't be after watching two videos of Giesbrecht begging for her life while a dagger points at her head and two jihadists with machine guns stand over her as she talks?

Her physical condition was terrible; her eyes were swollen, her skin was ash-colored and her lips were chapped

from what appeared to be dehydration. Furthermore, she mentioned during the second video she had pneumonia and appeared frail underneath her dress and hajib.

Yes, a hajib, a head covering that is traditionally worn by Islamic women. Evidently, Giesbrecht, 53, converted to Islam after Sept. 11.

At first it seemed a bit unusual that an Islamic extremist group would kidnap a fellow Muslim to hold hostage. After all, don't they typically victimize those who best represent the evil Western culture? But then I remembered their tendency to victimize anyone who doesn't agree with them, Muslim or not. And a lot of other Muslims don't agree with their philosophies.

While researching Giesbrecht, I discovered that she traveled to the tribal areas of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in the summer of 2008 to shoot a documentary. She and two of her crew members were allegedly kidnapped in November. In my research, I came across her Web site.

"Whether loved or hated, of one thing there is no doubt," according to one article on her Web site, "Osama bin Laden is an extremely capable man, who along with his al-Qaida Network

and the World Islamic Front, which is made up of dozens of Islamic militia, has inspired a holy defense of Islam against what they consider to be the invasion of 'McWorld.'"

On Giesbrecht's Web site, she goes by Khadija Abdul Qahaar and has quite an unusual perspective on Islamic militant groups. Although I can respect her courage to "provide an alternate voice to Western media," I find her support of a literal jihad unsettling.

I tried to wrap my head around the situation. Giesbrecht, or Qahaar, a jihadist herself who advocates openly for the subject, was kidnapped and held for ransom by jihadists.

Hmm. Either they royally messed up when they chose her as their victim, or something isn't right.

Think about it: the last people jihadists want dead are those who believe in their holy war principles.

Furthermore, she's a journalist and has connections in the media that could potentially benefit the group. And to top it all off, she's already on their side.

Anyone who takes a look at her Web site, <http://www.jihadunspun.com>, can see that she's passionate about jihadist principles and wants to tell the world about it.

I believe it's a scam, and her perception of the rest of the world is so skewed that she actually believes we'll fall for it.

On her Web site, Giesbrecht posted an "urgent request" dated October 2008, one month before her alleged kidnapping.

She said the area had become very dangerous (imagine that) and pleaded with her readers to send her money so she can leave the country. She gave links for readers to donate using credit cards, Western Union and PayPal.

One month later she is allegedly kidnapped by fellow jihadists and held for a \$375,000 ransom. The jihadists gave the Pakistani and Canadian government until the end of March to come up with the money or Giesbrecht would be beheaded.

The deadline came and went without the ransom money and the jihadists decided to extend the deadline to April 5. April 5 came and went and as far as the world knows, not a cent of the \$375,000 was given to the kidnappers.

Now, according to globeandmail.com, an online Canadian news source, the kidnappers have decided to "postpone Giesbrecht's killing indefinitely."

Although local tribesmen are reluctant to talk about it, they say her release "should come at any time."

## Uphold good university policy, not politically tainted Student Senate resolution

While it's refreshing to see Student Senate consider legislation dealing with the rest of the university rather than just its internal procedures, one resolution approved by the group Thursday is at best politically tainted and at worst dangerous.

Either way, the resolution is also unnecessary, because the University of Nebraska already has thoughtful, appropriate policies on the books.

The resolution called on university faculty to not "under any circumstance, prejudice, bias, inflict grade deflation, [etc.] on students who do not conform to specific non-subject-matter ideas, ideals, political opinions, etc."

It does not, however, accuse the faculty of doing any of the nefarious things, and the resolution's author — graduate student Sen. Thomas Kocanda — couldn't give an example when asked during debate on the legislation.

Even granting some professors do abuse their status and influence over students, there are still already safeguards in place allowing students to push back against injustice.

The university has a very clear policy addressing the resolution's issues: R.P. 5.1.2, "The Student in the Academic Community," which was a policy "inaugurated by students, developed in concert with the faculty and administrative officers and approved in June 1968 by the Board of Regents," according to the policy book.

The overarching theme of the policy is that everyone on campus "should be treated with respect and dignity" which imposes a duty not to infringe upon the rights of others, including the assurance that all judgments made about a person will be made on relevant criteria.

The policy specifically addresses freedom of expression in the classroom, fair grading procedures and freedom of expression on campus.

On freedom of expression in the classroom: "It is the responsibility of each faculty member to provide an atmosphere which is conducive to freedom of expression by encouraging discussion and permitting exception to the views he or she has presented."

On fair grading: "Each student has the right to a course grade based upon a sound academic evaluation and upon a specified grading procedure. ... The faculty of each department, school, or equivalent unit, shall provide a committee to consider the appeal of those cases

in which a student feels the performance evaluation was unfair."

On freedom of expression on campus: "Free expression in the academic community shall not be abridged by special restrictions or censorship on publications, speakers or broadcasting. Any student group shall be allowed to invite and hear any person of its own choosing."

With this policy in place, including the grade appeal procedure as well as the university's ombudspersons office, the Student Senate's "freedom of conscience" resolution is, at the very least, unnecessary.

The resolution calls on UNO to "continue to be as diverse and open to independent thought as it is today."

The reason, however, UNO is open to independent thought is R.P. 5.1.2 as well as other well-crafted university policies. No further amendments are necessary.

So where did this resolution come from? It refers to the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, which is "a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational organization committed to academic freedom, excellence and accountability at America's colleges and universities."

Or, alternatively, the ACTA is a education policy advocacy group founded in part by Lynne Cheney, the wife of the former vice president, and

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., the infamous anti-indecent speech advocate.

Or, alternatively, the ACTA is the organization that released the report "Defending Civilization: How our universities are failing America and what can be done about it," which condemned universities after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by saying: "Indeed, the message of many in academe was clear: BLAME AMERICA FIRST."

The Student Senate resolution cited ACTA statistics from a 2004 report "Politics in the Classroom," which purports to have found that nearly half of students at top American colleges and university said politics was introduced in class even when it had nothing to do with the subject.

Among other things, the report also concludes there is a considerable liberal bias at those institutions. Coming from such an organization, though, the statistics seem dubious.

Again, though, even granting for the sake of argument

that university professors tend to lean to the left of the political spectrum, this doesn't necessarily mean there is a problem.

The university experience is supposed to expose students to a variety of perspectives, to challenge them to think. So long as liberal professors still meet these goals — as, in the University of Nebraska system, R.P. 5.1.2 requires — they are still able to perform their duty to education students.

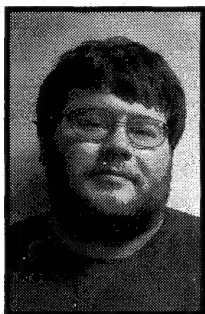
By the time you're enrolled in college classes, you should be able to think for yourself. Much of the curriculum of college classes is to further critical thinking: it's up to us, the students, to judge for ourselves what we think, what to accept from our professors and what to reject.

Sometimes politically charged issues should come up in classes — abortion in a moral theory class, for example. Sometimes, even, positions should be taken: I certainly would hate to see the geology department start teaching young Earth creationism or the biology department start reconsidering evolution.

Obviously, not everything our professors say is true. Some of it will be biased. Some of it will be flat-out wrong. On the whole, however, they serve their role to guide academic development.

SEE STEWART: PAGE 8

### Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

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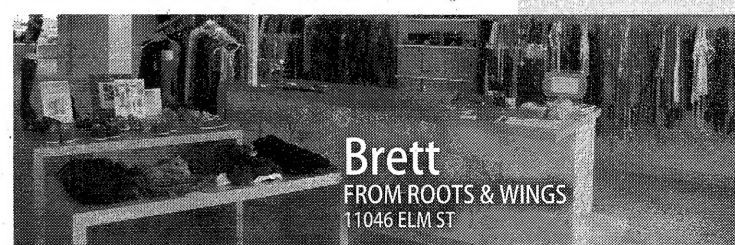
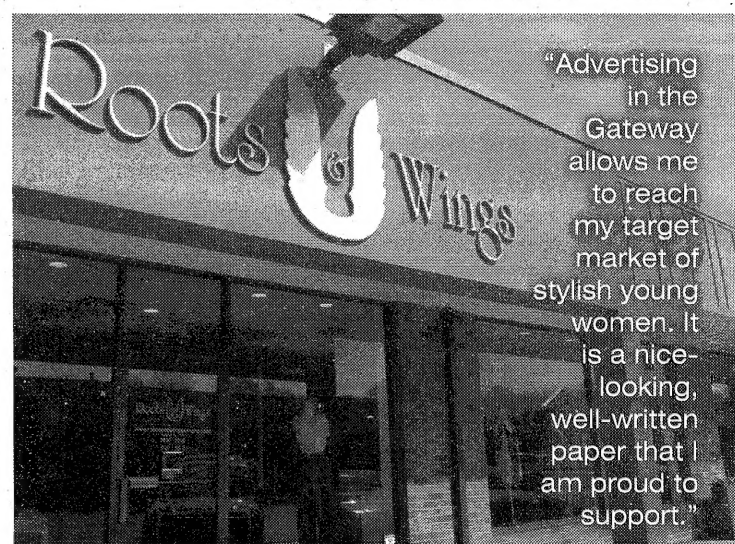
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FROM **STEWART:** PAGE 7

The people behind ACTA and similar "academic freedom" and "freedom of conscience" groups don't seem to get this, though. Sure, academia isn't perfect, but there's no reason to expect it to be.

Provided there are adequate systems in place to right wrongs — as there is at UNO and the rest of the NU system — and provided students and faculty members alike respect one another, there shouldn't be a problem with academic exploration and development.

FROM **FOOTBALL:** PAGE 1

quarterbacks today," Behrns said. "Thought they threw it fairly well. If we can get the skilled people around them playing a little bit better, we'll be OK."

Behrns said no decision has been made regarding the quarterback depth chart.

"We'll just have to wait and see, we have to give Greg Wunderlich an opportunity. He couldn't play today because of that shoulder separation," Behrns said. "I can't say I was disappointed with the other guys. For the first time and first game setting, it wasn't that bad."

Senior tailback Robert Wesley led all rushers with 82 yards on 20 carries.

The future of Maverick football will still have fall camp to get things going before UNO opens the 2009 season Aug. 27 against East Central University at Caniglia Field.

"I'm not quite sure if we got an identity yet. We got to kind of figure out who we're going to be and what we want to do," Behrns said. "There's some pieces we can work with. If you can start with a good line on both sides of the ball, you can put a lot of pieces together and I think we might have that."

Student Senate should be applauded for taking up the topic of student rights, and perhaps even applauded again for challenging the faculty on important issues like this. But, absent a real problem, the resolution passed by the senators is bad legislation.

It's unnecessary, it's irrelevant and, worst of all, it's a step down the path to establishing a chilling effect among the faculty when it comes to politically relevant issues. This is something that students and faculty should come together to oppose.



Quarterback John Teigland looks to make a move as Ben Vanderslice approaches during Saturday's spring game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)